

State of the Nursing Workforce in Missouri

An overview of the issues and opportunities for nursing-related careers

November 2005

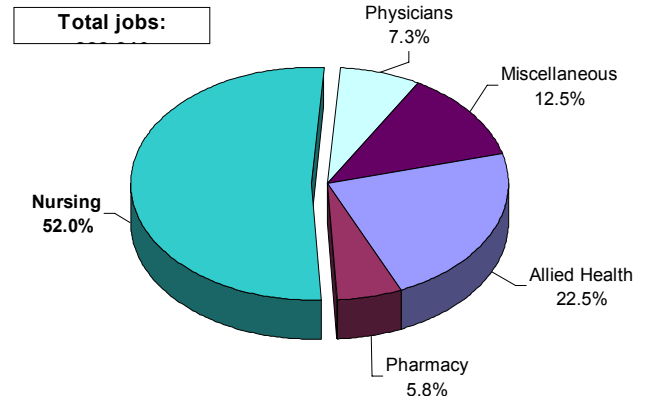
Drivers in the Healthcare Sector

Nursing careers contributed to half of the employment in the overall healthcare industry from 2000 to 2004.

- Over the next decade, the number of registered nurses is projected to grow by more than 22%.
- There will be even more demand for Physician Assistants which is a career projected to increase by almost 40%.

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004.

Health Care Jobs in Missouri (Nov. 2004)

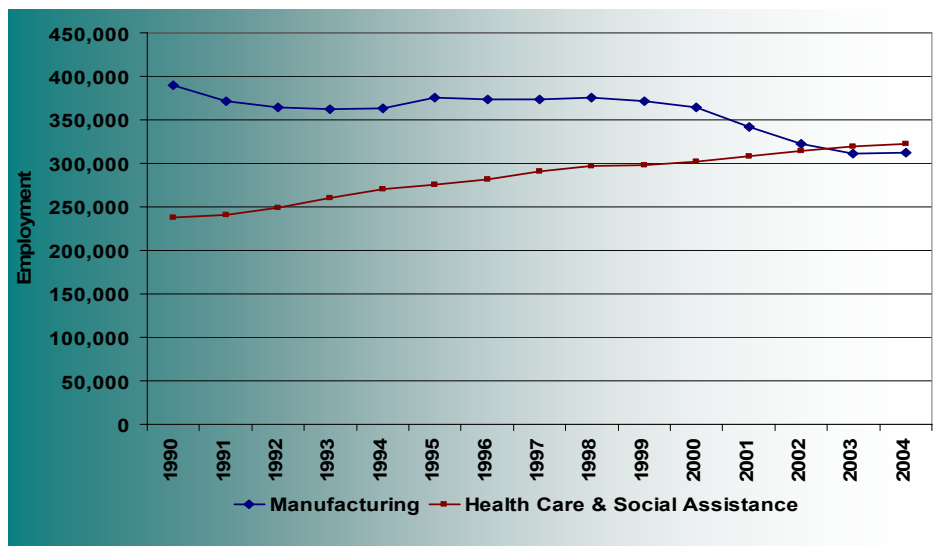


A Dramatic Economic Shift

In the past decade, Missouri shifted from a goods producing to a service producing economy. This trend is evident when comparing historical industry employment in Manufacturing versus Health Care and Social Assistance.

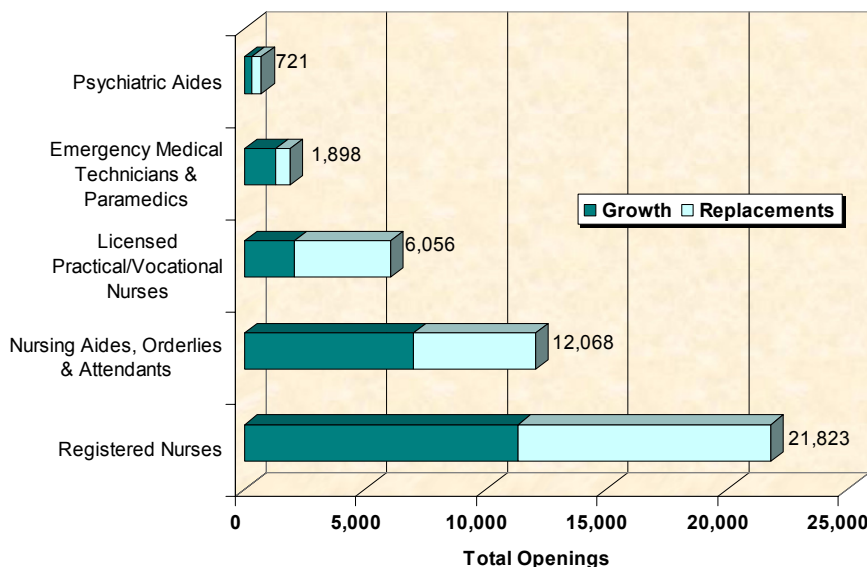
In 1990, Manufacturing accounted for more than 16% of jobs statewide with Social Assistance accounting for only 10% of jobs. After the economic shift, Health Care/Social Assistance added over 84,000 jobs to account for almost 12% of statewide employment in 2004. During that same time period, Manufacturing lost more than 78,000 jobs and now only accounts for 11% of statewide employment.

Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance Employment



Source: MERIC, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by Industry in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990-2004.

Projected openings for selected nursing jobs in Missouri, 2002-2012



A Strong Outlook for Nursing Careers

From 2002 to 2012, Nursing-related careers are projected to add over 22,000 jobs - a percent increase of 19% from 2002.

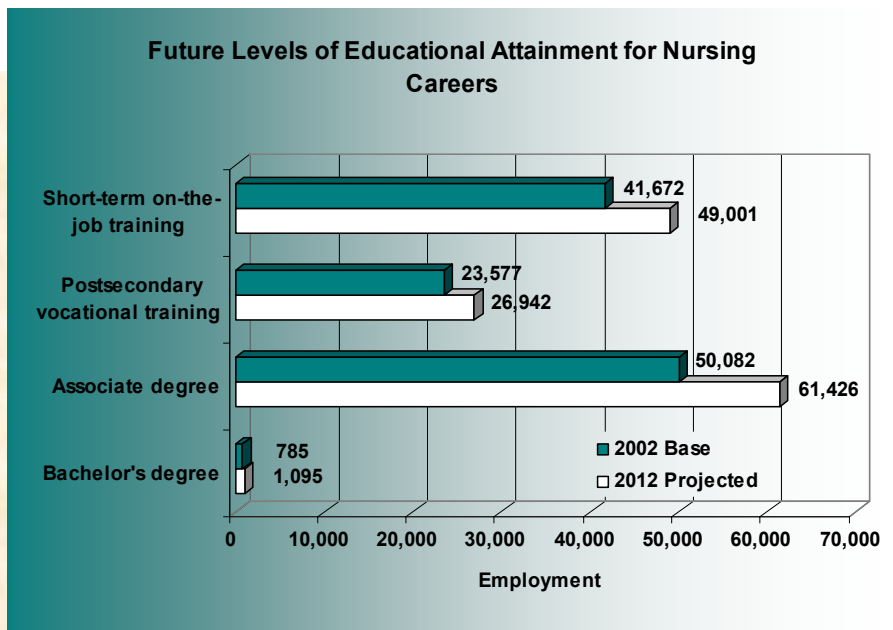
Total job openings over the ten-year period are a combination of both growth and replacement openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy. Replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements – not new jobs.

Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012.

The Future for Nursing Training

Over 35% percent of workers in Nursing-related careers are employed in occupations that typically require short-term (less than 1 month) on-the-job training.

Expected job openings in the Nursing sector will, however, place demands on higher education over the next ten years. In 2012, 44% of Nursing-related workers will need skills typically obtained through an associate's degree.



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wage Rates for the Top 5 Employing Nursing Occupations

Occupation	Nov. 2004 Employment	Hourly Wage		
		25th Percentile	Average	75th Percentile
Registered nurses	52,410	\$19.32	\$23.89	\$27.26
Nursing aides, orderlies, & attendants	39,410	\$7.76	\$9.29	\$10.63
Licensed practical & licensed vocational nurses	16,940	\$12.41	\$14.86	\$16.86
Emergency medical technicians & paramedics	4,160	\$10.26	\$15.02	\$17.57
Psychiatric aides	1,960	\$7.92	\$9.35	\$10.48

Registered Nurses, one of the fastest growing occupations in the Nursing sector, is projected to grow by more than 22% over the next decade.

This occupation pays an above average wage of \$23.89 an hour.

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Training Providers for Nursing-Related Careers

In Missouri, there are 130 training providers/educational institutions that offer Nursing-related training programs.

Almost 40% of the Nursing-related training providers in the state (51) are located in the two major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

However, there is ample access to other Nursing-related training providers across all parts of rural Missouri.

